

House News

Georgia House of Representatives Staff

May 2005

From the Speaker

With the 2005 legislative session finally behind us, I would like to thank everyone who worked very hard to make it successful journey for us all.

As you know, January brought new challenges for all us and much speculation about how the House would operate. I believe that we outperformed all expectations and that working as team – both staff and legislators – we were able to succeed for Georgia.

With the summer months approaching and study committees just getting underway, this is a slower paced time around the capitol. I look forward during this time to improve the general operation of the House and working with you to make our next session even more successful.

Thank you again for your hard work and I look forward to seeing you around the Capitol during the recess!



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Featured Story

This month's featured story is a tribute to our former postmaster, Wiley T. Nixon.

Newsletter Contacts:

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Did you know....

A bronze plaque of Dr. Charles Herty, a Georgia chemist, hangs on the third floor. Dr. Herty revolutionized the pulp industry, adding millions of dollars to naval store industry, and was instrumental in making Georgia pine into newsprint paper, bringing many paper companies to our state. A versatile gentleman, he organized and coached the first UGA football team.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!



MAY

Linda Brooks-Cooper	May 6
Malcolm Smith	May 10
Tammy Liner	May 14
Pat Jackson	May 16
Doris Littlejohn	May 18
Michelle McKelly	May 19
Judy Kind	May 24
Charlie Walker	May 25
Robbie Rivers	May 28



You were born an original. Don't die a copy.

--John Mason

From the Chief-of-Staff



Congratulations on a great session! Our work started early as we moved offices and settled into our new locations but everyone handled this transition excellently and kept right on working! We also had quite a few new faces around the Capitol and I am proud of how everyone pulled together and worked as a team!

As we head into the summer, I hope that everyone enjoys the beautiful weather and has an opportunity to spend some more time with their families. I look forward to continuing to get to know everyone and I hope to see you all around the Capitol!

ONE OF GEORGIA'S FINEST POSTMASTERS

When you think of the Georgia State Capitol, the first things that comes to mind are law makers, hot air, long days, and hallways congested by bodies which we know have a function under the Gold Dome, although we rarely know what it is. But, if you ever took a moment to stop in the hallway alongside the House Chamber, you would inevitably hear an unforgettable laugh coming out of a small office, decorated with pictures of some of the most famous Georgians posing alongside the owner of that laugh.

For 35 years, that powerful yet soothing laugh resounded through the halls of the Capitol, reminding you of exactly where you were. That laugh belonged to Wiley T. Nixon, a man that was perhaps more synonymous with the Capitol, the Legislature, or maybe even Georgia than anyone else.

Wiley began his career at the Capitol as a doorkeeper in 1969, having been recruited by then House Speaker Tom Murphy. He later became the Capitol Postmaster who always considered his number one priority to keep 236 legislators happy.

He was a man with one of the most contagious smiles and a personality that comforted and reached out to everyone from the youngest child to the most senior elected official. So beloved was he that on April 15, 2005, the day of his passing, Governor Perdue paid the highest tribute to Wiley that the state can give and lowered both the Georgia and United States Flags outside of the Capitol to half-staff. It was a mark of respect to the memory of the man whose tireless work served this state more than he could ever know.

This was my first year at the Georgia Capitol. Most of you knew him better, longer and more closely than I had the opportunity to. Yet, I feel safe in saying that we all share the same level of respect for the man who was and will always be "Georgia's Postmaster."

Brent Cranfield



Wiley T. Nixon

Helpful Hints...

Printing bar codes on envelopes helps the Post Office and it is very easy to do:

- In Word go to Tools, click on Letters and Mailings.
- Type your delivery address in the space provided.
- Click on Options, then click on Delivery Point Bar Code.
- Click ok and print your envelope!

When you are merging envelopes in Word you will get the option to print the bar code in the help pane that pops up during the mail merge!

Words of Wisdom...

Charlie Walker

House Budget Office, Director

He may be the longest serving staff member in the House, but his energy level has never been so high. Charlie came to the Legislature in 1974 as a research analyst with the Joint Legislative Budget Office. A graduate of what became the State University of West Georgia, he began his professional career as a financial manager for the Gray Barr Electric Company. Charlie has seen the world from both the private and public sector in his career, so I asked him to give us these words of wisdom for our futures both here and beyond.

- Be honest and straight up in dealing with everyone you work with and meet.
- Show both parties that you can think and will work objectively, showing that whoever is in power, the quality of your work will always be at its best.
- Don't take things personally, and your loyalty to the House will get the job done.

A Fresh Face...

Brittany Anderson

Receptionist, Office of the Speaker

Brittany joined the Speaker's Office on April 6 of this year, after working during the session as a Legislative Aide to Rep. Chuck Sims. A student at the GA campus of the University of Phoenix, Brittany is currently working on earning her degree in Business Management. Raised by a single mother in Columbus, Ohio, Brittany saw the "Heart of the South" as the best place to live out her dream of finding a career that would give her & her future family the opportunities that her mother always wanted for her. This twenty year old newcomer to the Capitol already knows that what she wants is a better life, a close family, & life stability that no place else can provide better than the State of Georgia. Living in Atlanta, with her new boxer puppy "Lady," Brittany hopes that her job with the Speaker's Office will provide her with the opportunity to learn new skills & grow in a professional environment that will lead to achievement of whatever the future holds in store.

Work With Someone You Trust

A Message from the MEMBERS Financial Services Program located at State Employees Credit Union

- Is your retirement money invested properly?
- Will you have enough income in retirement?
- How will you pay for a child's education?
- Financially, what would happen to your family if you died?
- How will you pay for long-term care?

The MEMBERS Financial Services Program located at State Employees Credit Union has one objective: to help you reach your financial goals. We're here to help you make sound financial decisions consistent with your risk tolerance, investment time-lines and goals.

The program works in cooperation with the State Employees Credit Union and complements the products and services the credit union makes available to you. Together we can provide a total package to help you realize your full financial potential.

When it comes to insurance and investments, we understand the importance of a trusted partner. Contact Guy Cook, the MEMBERS Financial Services Representative serving SECU, at (404) 463-1895 for a no-cost, no-obligation appointment.

Not yet a member of SECU? Call 1-800-659-7328 to see how you can join today!

Representatives are registered through, and securities are sold through, CUNA Brokerage Services, Inc. (CBSI), member NASD/SIPC, 2000 Heritage Way, Waverly, Iowa 50677, toll-free (866) 512-6109. Insurance sold through licensed CUNA Mutual Life Insurance Company Representatives, and in New York, licensed insurance representatives of other companies. Nondeposit investment products are not federally insured, involve investment risk, may lose value and are not obligations of or guaranteed by the credit union.

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Employee Spotlight!

CHERRIE HUFFARD

HOUSE BUDGET OFFICE

Cherrie came to the General Assembly in January of 1986, joining the then Joint Legislative Budget Office as a secretary. As a part-time employee, her background and skills came to be such an asset to the office and the General Assembly itself that within months she was hired to a full-time position, and changed our budget process forever.

Trained as a computer programmer, the twenty-six year old Cherrie was given the task of transferring the state's budget to a computerized format. She created the first fully computerized budget in the state's history saving needed time and physical effort.

Born and raised in Snellville, Cherrie has been a lifelong Georgian. Now making her home

in Peachtree City, she makes the commute to the Capitol everyday, and continues to influence how our state's budget is created, changed, and produced into the document that our legislators use to fund our government.

When asked why she chose to work for the State of Georgia, job security and health insurance for her then 5-year old daughter made the decision for her. Now at nearly 20 years of service, she has become one of the most valuable members of our staff. Once she has completed her work for the House, Cherrie hopes to live the rest of her life relaxing and enjoying the ease of living on a beach. As for all of us, I only hope that that day doesn't come too soon.

Happy Anniversary!!



Happy 20th
Anniversary
Fred & Pat
Alexander!

Pat says that she and
Fred are "20-year
Newlyweds!"

They have
four children
and seven
grandchildren.
Congratulations!

Pasta With Ricotta and Broccoli Rabe

This is a quick and easy supper that can be on the table in 20 minutes.

Makes 6 servings

Coarse salt and ground pepper

1 pounds (1 to 2 bunches) broccoli rabe, coarsely chopped.
Can substitute regular broccoli or spinach

1 pound gemelli (or other short pasta)

2 tablespoons olive oil

2 garlic cloves, chopped

15-ounce container part-skim ricotta cheese (1 and 2/3 cups)

1 cup milk

In a large pot of boiling salted water, boil broccoli rabe (or substitute) 1 minute; with a slotted spoon, transfer to a colander to drain. In same pot of water, cook pasta until al dente, according to package instructions. Drain pasta, and return to pot.

Meanwhile, heat oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add garlic; cook, stirring, until fragrant, 30 to 60 seconds. Add broccoli rabe; season with salt and pepper. Cook, stirring occasionally, until tender, 5 to 6 minutes. Stir in ricotta and milk; cook just until heated through, 3 to 4 minutes.

Add contents of skillet to pasta; season with salt and pepper, and toss to combine. Serve immediately.

**Recipe Courtesy
of
Beth Greene**

Never eat more than you can lift.

...Miss Piggy

*Recipe
courtesy
of Jan
Brown*

Not Yo Mama's Banana Pudding

Courtesy of Paula Deen, Savannah

6 to 8 bananas
2 bags Pepperidge Farm Chessmen Cookies
1 can sweetened condensed milk
1 large pkg. cream cheese - softened
1 5 oz. (small) box instant French Vanilla pudding
2 cups milk
12 oz. Cool Whip

Layer 1 bag of cookies in 13 x 9 x 12 pan. In a medium bowl, mix pudding and milk until smooth. In a large bowl, mix cream cheese and sweetened condensed milk until smooth, then fold in the cool whip. Add pudding mixture and stir all until well mixed. Slice bananas over cookies, then pour pudding mixture over bananas. Place remaining bag of cookies on top of pudding. Refrigerate about 10-20 minutes before serving.

Way to go!!

Gina McKinney would like to brag on her daughter, Cecily, for making the Basketball Cheerleading Squad for Union Grove High School. Cecily will be the flyer on the squad! She will be going into the 10th grade in August!

WAY TO GO CECILY!!



Jay Walker would like to brag on his fiancé, Mary, for graduating from Physical Therapy School, Saturday, May 7th. Mary graduated with honors.

WAY TO GO MARY!!

Congratulations to all of the 2005 House Interns that will be graduating this semester!!

WAY TO GO SARAH GALLE!! - University of Georgia

WAY TO GO ABBEY SHOCKLEY!! - Georgia College & State University

WAY TO GO LaRHONDA WILLIAMS!! - Georgia State University

WAY TO GO ASHLEY PETTY!! - Georgia State University

WAY TO GO MATTHEW MOMTAHAN!! - Georgia State University



Our Extended House

Family News



Eli Greene celebrated his first birthday on May 4, 2005. Eli is the son of Beth and Scott Greene and the brother of Andy!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY ELI!!

Ashley Jordan and Justin Cook at their first prom. They are both Juniors at Starrs Mill High School. The prom was at the Biltmore Hotel downtown. Ashley and Justin, along with three other couples, rented a Hummer Limo!

Ashley is the daughter of Julie and Bruce



Educate yourself!

The House Database is online at the following address: http://www.legis.state.ga.us/legis/2005_06/house/downloads/downloads.htm. To use the House Members database for a Word mail merge follow these simple steps:

1. Go to the website and click on Publications. Click on address labels, database, spread sheets. Right click on Merge File under Word and click the option to save as. Save this file on your hard drive and remember where you saved it!
 2. Open Word and click on Tools, Letters and Mailings, Mail Merge. You will get a mail merge window that pops up on the right side of your desktop.
 3. From here click letters (or whatever type of document you want to merge) and click Next at the bottom of the page.
 4. If you have already typed your main document (the letter) use the option to start from existing document which will take you to a browse where you can find your document. If you have not typed your document click the option to use the current document. Hit the next button at the bottom of the page.
 5. This is where you select your recipients. Click have buttons to put in your data fields. Run your cursor over the buttons until you find the one that says insert merge fields. Place your fields into your letter. Click next at the bottom of the page.
 7. You will then be at the Preview your letters page. This lets you see how the letter will look. Hit next at the bottom of the page.
 8. This will be the complete the merge page. You can either hit print or edit individual letters. I usually edit the individual letters so I can make sure everything turns out right. A pop up box will ask you all or the current record – select all.
 9. The merged document will open in a new window. You can save the merged document or you can close that window and save your main document.
- Happy Merging!

Happy Merging!

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Upcoming Events

Jay Walker and Mary Farner's wedding date is June 11, 2005!

We will be having a “Dress-Up” party soon! We are trying to arrange for a representative from CAbi to bring in her line of clothing and some of our very own colleagues will give us helpful hints about how to put on the finishing touches with scarves, jewelry, and accessories. We are in the planning stages now but will be sending out an e-mail inviting all of the House Ladies as soon as we get it worked out!!

We're on the Web!

www.legis.state.ga.us/legis/2005_06/house/index.htm